



global-mark



Global-Mark Pty Ltd

Summary Report

Sustainable Forest Management



**Responsible
Wood** RW/1-44-2

This document is external.



General	Comments
Certification standard	AS/NZS 4708: 2021
Client Name / Business name	SFM Agribusiness trading as SFM Forest Products
Business address of the client	45 High Street, New Norfolk, TAS, 7140
Name of the Certification Body	Global-Mark Pty Ltd
Names of review team members	P. Crosby - Auditor, W. Tibbits - Audit Team Leader
Dates of review	Tuesday 21 st to Thursday 23 rd November 2023
Type of review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 pre-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 certification; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveillance post certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Re-certification; <input type="checkbox"/> Remote MD4; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition
Sites visited to assess [e.g., office, depot, nursery, fire tower etc.]	Principal office site of 70 Hamden Road, Battery Point, TAS Main TAS regional office of 45 High Street, New Norfolk, TAS, 7140 Belcher fire tower on the Lenah Estate.
Forest Management Units visited	<i>Pinus radiata</i> plantation <i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> plantation Tasmanian native forest of high elevation dry sclerophyll types
Name of each forest site visited	<p>P. Crosby visited these sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> QU001E, Harbach's Road, Dysart, privately owned, FPP = AJP0053-01, 150 hectares, <i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> plantation, active live clearfall harvesting operation, 1h 25 min on site. QU001C, Harbach's Road, Bagdad, privately owned, FPP = AJP0044-01, 104 hectares, <i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> plantation, recently completed active clearfall harvesting operation, 55 min on site. JD001C, Harbach's Road, Dysart, privately owned, FPP = AJP0041-01, 132.1 hectares, site preparation for second rotation pine plantation, 1h 20 min on site. SFM166F, Table Mountain, Interlaken, privately owned yet on market for sale, FPP = JEB0022-01, 132.1 hectares, recently completed active selective harvest, 1h 20 min on site. <p>W. Tibbits visited these sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> RP003X, Lenah Estate, Repulse, Joint Venture with Sustainable Timber Tasmania [STT] on STT land, randomly selected, completed recently active planting of second rotation by contractor Forest Planters, 123.4 hectares. 0920-1040 hours on site. RP017v, Lenah Estate, Repulse, Joint Venture with Sustainable Timber Tasmania [STT] on STT land, opportunistic inactive site selected, 123.4 hectares. 1105-1114 hours on site. EN037x, Lenah Estate, Ellendale, Forest Planters contractor actively doing manual weed control from pine plantation. 1224-133? on site. UX057u, Lenah Estate, Moogara, freehold, randomly selected, Statewide Earthworks contractor actively doing slash raking into windrows, 30.5 hectares. 1445-1603 hours on site. PE002xyz05z, Lenah Estate, Pelham, active site, clearfall harvest by contractor Muskett, 450 hectares. 0826-1035 hours on site. PE002xyz, Lenah Estate, Pelham, completed recently active planting restored native forest edge by contractor Forest Planters, 1035-1115 hours on site. PE001z, Lenah Estate, Pelham, active game control, 1115-1143 hours on site.
Sections of the Standard and Sustainability Criteria in scope of this audit / review	The whole standard AS/NZS 4708: 2021, for assessment of transition to it.
Exclusions to the standard and/or management system	Nil

General	Comments
Extent of activities within the scope of certification	Forest management activities covering native forest and plantations, and the following operations: including establishment, silviculture, and harvesting.
Name of Management Representative	L. Chappell - Sustainability and Compliance Manager
	Comments on main points from audit
Global-Mark summary of the main findings	<p>In December 2021, the standard AS/NZS 4708: 2021 was published, superseding NZS 4708: 2014. This November 2023 audit is the first review as a transition assessment to this new version. All performance requirements of the seven sustainability criteria of the AS/NZS 4708: 2021 standard were assessed.</p> <p>The audit duration at SFM of four [4] auditor days was undertaken by a team of two, 1.5 days for P. Crosby and 2.5 days for W. Tibbits. The full audit duration does not include planning or reporting, by the audit team leader. About 50% of the time was for field inspections.</p> <p>There have been some changes to the sustainable forest management system and scope of certification since the previous on-site review audit in early 2023. This includes some organisational restructuring, and the use of the name SFM Agribusiness Pty Ltd rather than SFM Forest Products Pty Ltd. Nonetheless, the certified sustainable forest management system is maintained, and transitioning to AS/NZS 4708:2021.</p> <p><u>Positive comments on sometimes exemplary forest management are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statewide Earthworks operator was diligent at induction, to confirm understanding of EMP, comprehensive SWMS. 2. Use of less valuable wattle and not harvestable pine as cord wood at UX057. 3. Additional markers [large sticks/logs or high cut stumps] set up by contractor Muskett to alert operators to exclusion edges. 4. Flexibility and responsiveness to changing conditions such as loss of operative camera at fire towers, necessitating use of people to work in towers. 5. At Table Mountain, there was clear evidence of best practice in terms of minimising soil disturbance and erosion risk, rehabilitation of snig tracks and landings, construction of drainage structures, and exit operations to encourage regrowth from the seed bank. 6. Water crossing infrastructure was noted at all sites to be well built and effective. 7. Selection of prescribed actions in a 'Threatened Vegetation Area' where disturbing trees for safety reasons would consider lopping in preference to felling. <p><u>Identified negative or improvement matters in better forest management are as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not all potential future hazards such as old wire rope or discarded game-proof fence material, are in GIS layers across the estate and when sighted at harvest and/or clearing activities they do not necessarily get marked and/or identified as such. 2. Going beyond standard minimum Notice of Intent contents to provide affected stakeholders with more comprehensive information on timing of activities. 3. Capturing more evidence in iAuditor "operational audits" to confirm performance. 4. Address options of what to do with used cord wood that is left on site and thus denying some plantable area. 5. Try to rehabilitate temporary tracks and product storage areas more promptly by ensuring drainage and re-vegetation 6. Lack of developed procedure and resources for response to fire

General	Comments
	<p>threatening an occupied fire tower.</p> <p>7. Ongoing checks of contents, suitability, and adequateness of first aid kits of contractors.</p> <p>The organisation was required to submit by 1 December 2023 a corrective action plan for the unresolved single major nonconformance and two identified minor nonconformance matters. A corrective action plan was received 28 November 2023, with SFM indicating more evidence on corrective actions might be available middle of January 2024. It has been reviewed and accepted by the Audit Team Leader, though we note that the plan provided hyperlinks to https://sfmaus.sharepoint.com/sites/, which we were unable to access. Evidence of corrective and preventative actions had not been received at Global-Mark at the date of the first draft of this report on 24 January 2024. This was due to staff being on leave. On 30 January 2024 an update was received with additional evidence on addressing audit findings. Due to the audit team leader being on leave this could not be assessed until 11 February 2024. Upon assessing this new evidence, the major finding was closed by Global-Mark, enabling it recommending successful transition. Global-Mark decided to keep both minor nonconformance findings open for reassessing at the 2024 audit, as it could not confirm sufficient preventative actions. In conducting the follow-up of these findings Global-Mark identified some improvements required with the publicly available forest management policy and raised an observation.</p> <p>We believe that the organization listed above at the sites listed above has the capability to systematically meet the requirements of the standard (listed above), and for the activities/products listed on the Global-Mark scope of certification.</p>
Defined Forest Area	Comments on Defined Forest Area and scope of certification
Brief description of the FMUs [Forest Management Units]	<p><i>Pinus radiata</i> plantation in Tasmania</p> <p><i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> plantation in Tasmania</p> <p>Native high elevation forest in Tasmania</p> <p>Hydrowood in Tasmania</p> <p><i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> plantation in Green Triangle</p>
Brief description of the geographic locality of Defined Forest Area	The Defined Forest Area comprises all properties managed by SFM in Tasmania including the Lenah estate, Hydrowood Lake Salvage, and other private forest owners, the Portland Treefarm Project estate in Victoria.
Area of the Defined Forest Area as advised to the Scheme Owner	25,467.8 hectares total in the Lenah Estate, not just plantation. 5,267.3 hectares total across other estates, including 2,062 hectares on Hydrowood.
Source for details of the Defined Forest Area (maps etc.), audit Summary Reports	DFA and certification audit details are available at the website https://www.sfmes.com.au/contact . The certificate holder must transition to AS/NZS 4708:2021 no later than 10th March 2024.
Describe any applicable qualifications for scale and intensity	Plantations receive intensive silviculture, involving use of large, heavy machines, and chemicals with aerial application as required.

Review team declaration:

We confirm that for the purpose of this review:

- We did not have any conflict of interest with and are fully independent from the company listed above.
- The review team had sufficient resources, and competences to complete its review and reach its conclusions summarised here.
- We had the appropriate credentials to perform this review in accordance with Global-Mark Pty Ltd and applicable accreditation requirements.

Comment and disclaimer on this report:

- This summary report does not and should not be seen as advice. Please consult a qualified advisor or consultant for advice.
- Due to the sampling nature of third party business reviews, the time available and samples size, some issues, nonconformance, non-compliances or improvements might not have been identified in the present audit summarised reported. This does not imply that these issues do not exist or are in conformance or compliance. Employees, management, and other stakeholders of the organization need to and are

responsible for, continuously identifying and taking necessary controls to ensure continued conformance with the standard.

- Readers of this report should make judgement taking the above into account.
- The summary report has been prepared for the abovementioned client/ business to make publicly available without request.

End of summary report

Global-Mark approved publicly
available

Document Information and Revision History of Template

Document Number & Name	AS 4708 / NZS 4708 Summary Report
Original Author(s)	Wayne Tibbits

Revision	Date	Author(s)	Notes
0	5 th July 2019	Dr W. Tibbits	Initial release in new format. Excludes personal information of confidential nature from content.
1	17 th March 2023	Dr W. Tibbits	Revised release for passing on to Program Manager to use for accreditation to AS/NZS 4708: 2021.
2	30/7/23	Emily Silberberg	Revised after JASANZ finding during transition to AS/NZS 4708: 2021.
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Global-Mark approved public available